A Retrospective on the Civil Engineering Faculty at Northwestern University 1957-1961

David Boyce
Civil Engineering Class of 1961 Reunion
July 6, 2011
The Technological Institute, Civil Engineering Wing
Remember the iconic million pound test machine? Evidently, lab space was not so scarce then.
Purpose of this brief review

• Who were the faculty who taught us?
• What were their qualifications?
• What were their career achievements?

After some consideration, I decided to proceed in chronological order by date of birth.
Lawrence T. Wyly, 1893-1981

- WW I fighter ace; shot down eight ‘Huns’
- Civil Engineer degree, Minnesota, 1938
- Professor at NU and Purdue, 1938-1961
Merrill B. Gamet, 1905-1989

- M.S., Wisconsin, 1938; sanitary engineer
- NU CE faculty, 1928-1962
- CE Department Chair
- Taught us surveying and geometric road design with enthusiasm and dedication.
John A. Logan, 1908-1987

- D.Sc., Harvard, 1942
- Sanitary and public health engineer
- NU faculty, 1954-62
- CE Department Chair
- President, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 1962-76
- Member, NAE, 1968
Donald S. Berry, 1911-2002

- Ph.D., Michigan, 1936
- Transportation engineer
- NU faculty, 1957-79
- Founder, NU Program in Transportation Engineering
- CE Department Chair
- Member, NAE, 1966
- Advisor to Class of 1961
Wallis S. Hamilton, 1911-2001

- Ph.D., Iowa, 2001
- Fluid mechanics & hydraulics engineer
- NU faculty, 1943-1977
- Designed and equipped the hydraulics laboratory of the CE Department
Jorj O. Osterberg, 1915-2008

- Ph.D., 1940, Cornell
- Geotechnical engineer
- NU faculty, 1945-85
- CE Department Chair
- Member, NAE, 1975
- Developer of the Osterberg cell and related field tests
O. C. Zienkiewicz, 1921-2009

- Ph.D., 1945, Imperial
- Structural engineer
- NU faculty, 1957-1962
- Finite element method (with Robert L. Taylor)
- Head of CE, University of Wales, Swansea
- Foreign Associate, NAE, 1981; 30 hon. degrees
- Supervised 70 Ph.D.s
Robert B. Banks, 1922-2002

• Ph.D., 1951, UC Berkeley
• Fluid mechanics
• NU faculty, 1955-63
• Dean of Eng., Univ. of Illinois, Chicago
• President, Asian Institute of Technology
• Author of two semi-popular books on science and mathematics late in his career
Seng-Lip Lee, 1925-

- Ph.D., 1953, UC Berkeley
- Structural engineer
- NU faculty, 1955-68
- Supervised 26 Ph.D.s at NU and 53 total
- Professor at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and National University of Singapore
Other faculty in Civil Engineering

- Carlos G. Bell, Jr., 1922-
- John Dundurs, 1922-
- Edwin E. Pyatt, 1929-
- Paul S. Shuldiner, 1930-
- Wesley O. Pipes, Jr., 1932-
Academic staff and postgraduate students of the Department of Civil Engineering in front of the Technological Institute, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, 1958; found in a Biographical Note of Professor Seng-Lip Lee.
Clarence L. Ver Steeg, 1922-2007

- Ph.D., 1950, Columbia
- NU faculty, 1950-92
- Lectured on US history for engineers
- Chaired the Faculty Planning Committee that developed strategic plans with an increased emphasis on graduate education and research
- Led committees that planned construction of the Lakefill Campus and expansion of the University Library
- Dean of the Graduate School, 1975-86
June 21, 2011

Dear David,

I am delighted to hear from you and trust that the reunion of the class of 1961 went well.

Most of my professional life has been devoted to academic activities, which include research and development in infrastructure engineering. I am glad to learn that David Guell, Frank Collins and yourself have devoted yourselves in academic life, and am sad to learn of the passing of Gilbert Pearson, Robert Malmgren, James Cunningham and Robert Bryant.

Please convey my sincere greetings and best wishes to David, Frank, Charles Brintlinger, Ed Preissner and William Buchholz.

With deepest regards.

Emeritus Professor Lee Seng Lip
National University of Singapore
The Technological Institute, late 1960s